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Commission on Sustainable Development
Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on
Industry and Sustainable Development
2-6 March 1998
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Industry and sustainable development.
4. Guidelines for consumer protection.
5. Other matters.
6. Adoption of the report of the Working Group.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Working Group shall elect, at the commencement of the first meeting, from among the representatives of its members, such officers as may be required.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

In accordance with rule 7 of the rules of procedure, the Working Group shall, at the beginning of the session, after the election of its officers, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

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3. Industry and sustainable development

In its resolution 1997/63, the Economic and Social Council decided that during the period 1998-2002 the Commission on Sustainable Development should continue the practice of establishing, subject to approval by the Council, up to two inter-sessional ad hoc working groups in a given year with a view to assisting the Commission in the preparations for its forthcoming year.

The Council further decided that, on an exceptional basis, the provisional agendas of the 1998 meetings of the inter-sessional ad hoc working group or groups of the Commission would be recommended by the Bureau of the Commission in consultation with member States.

Following its meeting of 2 and 3 October 1997, the Bureau of the Commission recommended that one working group would be devoted to strategic approaches to freshwater management and the other working group to industry and sustainable development.

At its subsequent meeting, on 21 January 1998, the Bureau decided that the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Strategic Approaches to Freshwater Management would meet from 23 to 27 February and the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Industry and Sustainable Development would meet from 2 to 6 March.

It also recommended that both groups would give focused consideration to matters relating to transfer of technology, as they relate to the theme under discussion, and would provide for integrated consideration of other relevant means of implementation, particularly finance. Adequate attention would be given to the overriding issues of poverty and changing consumption and production patterns in accordance with the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on industry and sustainable development (E/CN.17/1998/4 and Add.1-3)

4. Guidelines for consumer protection

In its resolution 1997/53, the Council urged Member States, other entities of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations to continue their efforts to implement effectively the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection and to continue further work on the elaboration of guidelines to cover sustainable consumption patterns and other areas; requested the Secretary-General to undertake this work through the convening of an interregional expert group meeting, to be financed from extrabudgetary resources and in collaboration with interested Governments, Consumers International and other concerned entities active in this field, taking into account the recommendations emanating from the recently held regional conferences on consumer protection to include aspects of more sustainable consumption patterns; and recommended that the interregional expert group meeting elaborate specific recommendations for guidelines for sustainable consumption patterns for submission to the Council at its substantive session of 1998 through the Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixth session.

In light of the above resolution, the Bureau of the Commission decided that, to assist the Commission in its work during the sixth session, the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Industry and Sustainable Development would also address the issue of the elaboration of the guidelines for consumer protection, including sustainable consumption patterns.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on consumer protection (E/CN.17/1998/5)

5. **Other matters**

6. **Adoption of the report of the Working Group**

In accordance with established practice, the Working Group will submit a report to the Commission at its sixth session.